

CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT EXAMPLES

Life Sciences:

Life Sciences is a group of industries which includes production agriculture, value-added processing, pharmaceuticals, animal health products, and businesses involved in the application of biological and biochemical sciences to plants, animals, processed foods, and humans. The cluster holds many exciting opportunities for Iowa to emerge as a national and world leader in several areas. One of those areas is in the production of new bio-proteins. Specialty proteins generated from plants and animals can be used to develop pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and nutrition products. Iowa's strengths in animal and plant sciences at the Regents institutions and in the private sector point toward the development of bio-proteins as an area of focus. A Bio-Proteins Working Group involving industry and university experts has been established to identify collaborative opportunities to further develop and commercialize technologies. The Bio-Proteins Working Group is one example of the types of collaborative projects **the Life Sciences Industry Leadership Council** will be exploring that offer promise for creating new strategic business alliances for value-added food, **nutraceuticals**, and pharmaceutical production.

Advanced Manufacturing:

Advanced Manufacturing is defined as the rapid introduction of new processes, materials and technologies to manufacturing applications. This cluster gains competitive advantage through continuous innovation. An example of this collaborative effort is the Advanced Manufacturing Research and Commercialization Consortium (AMRCC), a strategic alliance of seven Iowa manufacturers and their suppliers. The seven manufacturers currently in AMRCC are HON Industries, Rockwell Collins, Fisher Controls, Maytag, Pella, Deere and **Vermeer**. AMRCC joined with the Regents institutions and **Sandia** National Laboratory to acquire breakthrough technology and share its use to provide quality products to customers more quickly and more cost-efficiently. As part of a \$1,986,000 project, the Iowa Business Council, on behalf of AMRCC, was awarded \$1,021,000 from the Iowa Department of Economic Development's Advanced Research and Commercialization (ARC) fund to purchase rapid prototyping equipment and form a virtual organization for rapid prototyping of new parts and products over the Internet. It is anticipated that acquiring this technology will have a significant positive impact on many Iowa manufacturers. **The Advanced Manufacturing Industry Leadership Council** will be working to expand current initiatives for providing access to rapid prototyping technology, lean manufacturing and other manufacturing technologies, and training and development in manufacturing.

Information Solutions:

The Information Solutions cluster currently includes businesses involved in insurance, financial services, and information technology. It is widely recognized that the availability and deployment of advanced telecommunications services (ATS) -high speed Internet access in particular -- is critical for businesses to be successful in the New Economy. Recent studies show that many businesses and residents throughout the state lack access to affordable high-speed Internet **services**. **The Information Solutions Industry Leadership Council** can play a significant role in ensuring that ATS is available statewide by organizing and managing the Iowa Advanced Telecommunications Services Alliance. Through the Alliance, the Council can provide a neutral forum through which all stakeholders can work together to develop and implement solutions that benefit individual businesses and Iowans throughout the state.